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Sixty-first session
Second Committee
Agenda item 56 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 7 November 2006 from the representatives of Azerbaijan and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are writing in response to the letter dated 10 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/60/977) with regard to agenda item 55 (b) of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

Turkey and Azerbaijan strongly believe that strengthened cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, together with diversification of energy and transport routes, would considerably contribute to economic growth, stability and welfare in the region. This conviction led to the materialization, with its inauguration on 13 July 2006 at the Ceyhan Terminal in Turkey, of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan crude oil pipeline, once referred in some circles as the "Pipe Dream". Another important component of the East-West Energy Corridor, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline, is to be operational by 2007.

As we firmly value the spirit of cooperation in the region, together with Georgia, we have also decided to realize the Kars-Akhalkalaki-Tbilisi-Baku (KATB) railroad connection project. On 25 May 2005, the Presidents of the three countries signed a joint declaration on the KATB project, which foresees the construction of a new 98 km-long railroad (68 km in Turkey and 30 km in Georgia) and the rehabilitation of the existing 160 km-long Akhalkalaki-Tbilisi railway. According to the data given in the feasibility report, the total cost of the project is estimated to be $440 million ($220 million for the Turkish part and $200 million for the Georgian part).

We believe that the KATB project will become a segment of a greater undertaking, which would link the KATB railway to the European railroad system

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through a tunnel built under the Bosphorus Strait, in the west, and to the trans-Asian railway system (Baku-Caspian-Turkmenbashi, Almaty-China), in the east.

The project is not intended to infringe upon the interests of any State, including Armenia; on the contrary the project is targeted at development of regional and trans-regional relations and collaboration. There are other energy and transport projects carried out in the region along with KATB and Armenia could have joined and benefited from those projects. Armenia was given numerous opportunities to take relevant measures to establish normal relations with its neighbours that would have enabled it to participate in regional cooperation initiatives.

Thus, Azerbaijan and Turkey cannot afford to miss the momentum to develop partnerships in pursuit of regional economic growth and prosperity and will continue to work towards strengthening regional cooperation meeting their economic and political interests.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 56 (b).

(*Signed*) Ilgar **Mammadov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey
to the United Nations

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General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Second Committee
Agenda item 54
Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Letter dated 6 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Islamabad Declaration, which was adopted at the second South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-II 2006), held on 20 and 21 September 2006 in Islamabad (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its attachment circulated at the earliest opportunity as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation
Islamabad, 20-21 September 2006

ISLAMABAD DECLARATION

We, the Heads of **Delegations** from **Afghanistan,** Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Maldives, **Myanmar,** Nepal, **Pakistan** and Sri **Lanka participating** in the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) **in Islamabad, Pakistan, September** 20-21, 2006, which was attended by the Ministers, State Ministers, senior civil servants, professionals from sector institutions, **academia,** civil society, **non-government organisations,** development partners **and** the private sector,

i) **Recognizing that Sanitation being** the basic **human** need is essential for improvement of environment, **health and quality of** life in **participating** countries;

ii) **Mindful** that **half of** the **population** in **participating** countries have no access to proper **sanitation and about** one million men, women and children **reportedly** die annually due to water **and sanitation** related **diseases;**

iii) **Being** ***aware that poor*** **sanitation** ***and*** related **health** issues need pursuance of strategies in solid and liquid wastes **management,** provision of proper sanitation facilities for **improvement** of hygienic environment; and that sanitation has close relationship with **disposal** of domestic, hospital, agriculture and indust'ial wastes; and being equally *aware* of the *need* to improve social delivery system, human settlement and better urban **planning** for ensuring improvement in sanitation; and

iv) **Noting,** with **acknowledgement, that the** first **South** Asian Conference *on* Sanitation held in **Dhaka, People's** Republic of **Bangladesh,** October 21-23, 2003 **facilitated** the participating **countries for the** formulation **of** ***sanitation*** *policies,* strategies and resolved to accelerate thei' implementation by the countries of the region and that the first conference an Sanitation also provided opportunities to the participating countries to share their experiences for meaningful improvement in the sanitation sector.

We the participating countries reaffirm *our* commitment and political will to achieve the targets of basic sanitation in **pursuance** of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Dhaka Declaration and that we further reaffirm at Islamabad to accelerate progress for achievement of adequate sanitation delivery system in a planned and phased manner by:

i) According high priority to sanitation:

ii) Strengthening inter-governmental cooperation in this region by activating the SACOSAN Inter-Cooney Working Group comprising of senior level representatives from the member countries to meet annually;

iii) iii) Discussing progress on all aspects of sanitation on a regular basis by reporting at the next South Asian Conference on a common set of indicators to be developed by the **inter-country working group;**

iv) Continuing to promote equity in our societies by striving to reach more effectively the hardcore **poor and** other **disadvantaged** communities through a combination of **participatory approaches;**

v) Striving tirelessly to increase ***the*** priority, **including** financial, given to sanitation by the **stakeholders;** and

vi) **Promoting** active **participation of** women **and** children in all the activities relating to the sanitation sector.

Agreeing **that momentum gained** at **first and second** SACOSANs **will** be further continued through hosting of third SACOSAN by **India in 2008,** fourth by Sri Lanka in 2010 and fifth by Nepal in 2012.

Finally we profess our **profound appreciation** to the *Government of* the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for successfully hosting the **Second *South*** Asian **Conference** on Sanitation (SACOSAN-2). We are grateful *for* being **accorded** such a warm and **hospitable** welcome and ***stay*** **by** the Government of **Pakistan** and **thank** the Government and the **people** of Pakistan for **making** this conference such a success.

(Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat)
Honorable Minister for **Environment,**
Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**

(Mrs. Saryt[anta PatI)
Honorable Minister of Statc for
Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs
Government of India

(Mr. Copal Man Shrestha)
Honorable Minister for Physical **Planning,** & Works
Government of Nepal

(Dr. Chea Samnang)
Director Department of Rural Health
Republie of Cambodia

(Mr. **Rohana Dieanayake**)
Honorable Deputy Minister of Highways & Urban Development and Water Supply Democratic Socialist **Republic** of **Sri Lanka**

(Mr. Fiazullah Kalcar)
Honorable Deputy Minister for Health Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**

(Mr. S. M. Jahrul Islam)
Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives People's Republic of **Bangladesh**

(Mr. Guo t4inglin)
Director of **International** Cooperation
Chinn National Development and Reform People's Republic of China

(Ms. Marsita Listyasari)
National Development Planning Agency, Republic *of* Indonesia

(Mr. Ahmed Abdullah)
Honorable Minister of Environment, Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives

(Dr. San Sbway Wynn)
Deputy Director (General (Public Health)
Department of Health, Ministry of Health Union of Myanmar